(i) Sikkim shall be included in the Council.

(ii) The Governors, who are Constitutional Heads, shall cease to be members of the Council.

(iii) Besides the Chief Ministers of the NE States, the Council shall consist of three members to be nominated by the President of India.

(c) and (d) Concerned States have been consulted. Many of the State Governments are in agreement with the proposals made.

(e) It is not possible to indicate any time limit by when the Bill would be passed by both the Houses of Parliament.

New National Security Plan

1439. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the new national security plan on anvil; and

(b) the action taken to curb the nefarious activities of the ISI and the smuggling of narcotics into the country from the border?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) Government in consultation with all concerned has been evolving appropriate strategies to handle sensitive issues pertaining to internal security in a multi-dimensional manner, which include strengthening of the border management, neutralising plans of the militants by pro-active action against them in the hinterland, greater functional integration of anti-militancy efforts, gearing up of the intelligence machinery, galvanising development programmes and deepening of the democratic process etc.

(b) In order to curb the nefarious activities of ISI and smuggling of narcotics into the country from across the border, Government have adopted a multi-pronged approach comprising of deployment of Central Para Military Forces, setting up of Border Observation Posts, erection of fencing/flood lighting in vulnerable areas along the Indo-Pak and Indo-Bangladesh borders and provision of specialised

equipments to the forces for checking infiltration and other subversive activities. Policing on the Indo-Nepal border has been intensified and strengthened. Instructions have also been issued to all the enforcement agencies to maintain utmost vigil and step up enforcement efforts under the strigent provisions contained in NDPS Act. Training is being imparted to officers to improve their effectiveness.

India earns the title of soft state

1440. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that by releasing the three terrorists to end the hijacking crisis and allowing safe passage to the hijackers, the national security has thus been affected not only in Kashmir but also all over India as it would now been seen as a soft State not only by ISI and muslim terrorists, but also by all terrorist elements in the country especially in the North-East; and

(b) if so, what extra precautionary measures Government have taken in North-East Region, Indo-Nepal Border areas, Indo-Bangladesh border areas and so on?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) In handling the situation arising out of the hijacking of IC-814, Government set itself three objectives (i) the earliest termination of the hijacking; (ii) the safe return of passengers, crew and aircraft; and (iii) preservation of national security. The matter in which the termination of the hijacking was ensured, met the priorities that Government had set itself. The hijacking of IC-814 has only made Governments' resolve stronger to combat the menace of terrorism.

(b) Government have adopted a multipronged approach comprising deployment of Central Para Military Forces, setting up of Border Observation Posts, erection of fencing/flood lighting in vulnerable areas along the Indo-Pak and Indo-Bangladesh borders